

Message Text

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P 100506Z JAN 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4703
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

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TAGS: EAID ECON PFOR WS
SUBJECT: ECONOMIC POLICY GOALS FOR WESTERN SAMOA

REF: 77 STATE 299030

1. THE EMBASSY TRANSMITS HERewith ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE ECONOMIC POLICY REVIEW FOR WESTERN SAMOA.

2. US ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES AND INTERESTS.

(A) RELATIONSHIP. WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO MAKE OUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH WESTERN SAMOA AS MEANINGFUL AS POSSIBLE
BY BEING CERTAIN THAT THE SAMOANS ARE CONSULTED ON MATTERS
OF ECONOMIC POLICY, PARTICULARLY MULTILATERAL ISSUES, IN
WHICH THEY ARE INTERESTED. WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT
WE TAKE CARE THAT THE FACT THAT OUR RELATIONS WITH WESTERN
SAMOA, AN LDC, ARE CHANNELED THROUGH A DC LIKE NEW ZEALAND
DOES NOT RESULT IN THE SAMOANS BEING OVERLOOKED OR LEFT
OUT ON POLICIES WHICH MIGHT BE OF GREAT INTEREST TO THEM.
IN PARTICULAR WE SHOULD STRIVE TO BE CERTAIN THEY ARE
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FULLY INFORMED ON ANY CHANGES IN OUR OWN GSP, OUR ATTITUDES
ON INTERNATIONAL TRADING QUESTIONS, ESPECIALLY TROPICAL
PRODUCTS, AND GENERAL CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS IN THE SOUTH
PACIFIC.

(B) ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. WE SHOULD BE CERTAIN THAT THE
SAMOANS ARE FULLY INFORMED ON THE GUIDELINES AND PHIL-

OSOPHY BEHIND OUR GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN ORDER THAT THEY ALSO KNOW WHAT IS FEASIBLE AND REALISTIC FOR ASSISTANCE FROM AN AMERICAN SOURCE. WE SHOULD MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO INVOLVE ADDITIONAL PRIVATE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN SAMOA BY BRINGING ASSISTANCE NEEDS IN THE COUNTRY TO THE ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE PVOS ON A REGULAR BASIS. WE SHOULD STRIVE TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM IN OUR ASSISTANCE EFFORT, IN WHATEVER FORM, IN ORDER THAT THE SAMOANS DO NOT BEGIN TO QUESTION OUR SINCERITY IN BACKING UP OUR WORDS WITH DEEDS.

(C) ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH AMERICAN SAMOA. THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN SAMOA IS INTENSELY INTERESTED IN GREATER ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH AMERICAN SAMOA AND, WITH THE ELECTION OF A SAMOAN GOVERNOR IN PAGO PAGO, THIS DESIRE FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO SAMOAS MAY BE RECIPROCATED FROM THE AMERICAN SIDE AS WELL. WE MIGHT WELL WISH TO CONSIDER WAYS IN WHICH SUCH ECONOMIC COOPERATION MIGHT BE ENCOURAGED AND FACILITATED BY THE USG.

(D) COORDINATION WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. WE SHOULD MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO COORDINATE ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN WESTERN SAMOA WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL THAT THE SAMOANS NOT GAIN THE IMPRESSION THAT OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THEIR COUNTRY, WHETHER IN THE AREA OF AID OR BROADER MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES, ARE ALWAYS FILTERED THROUGH NEW ZEALAND OR AUSTRALIA. THE SAMOANS ARE INTENSELY PROUD OF THEIR PRESENT INDEPENDENCE AND ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT WE REALIZE THAT THEIR INTERESTS ARE NOT ALWAYS PARALLEL WITH THOSE OF NEW ZEALAND OR EVEN AUSTRALIA.

3. KEY 1977 DEVELOPMENTS:

(A) OPENING OF HIGH COMMISSION. DURING THE YEAR THE WESTERN SAMOANS OPENED A HIGH COMMISSION OFFICE IN WELLINGTON AND APPOINTED A RESIDENT HIGH COMMISSIONER TO NEW ZEALAND. THE EXISTENCE OF THIS OFFICE HAS GREATLY FACILITATED OUR CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN SAMOA.

(B) WESTERN SAMOAN ADMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS. DURING 1977 WESTERN SAMOA WAS ADMITTED TO FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND APPOINTED AN AMBASSADOR TO THE UN, RESIDENT IN NEW YORK, WHO IS ALSO ACCREDITED TO THE UNITED STATES. THIS MOVE WILL ALSO FACILITATE

CONTACT BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. SELDEN

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